

EXHIBIT NO 15

DATE 3/24/09

BILL NO. HB 531

**Goodwin, Libby****From:** BILL GIBSON [wgibson97@msn.com]**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2009 11:55 AM**To:** john@senatorjohn.net; tutvedt@montanasky.us; ricklaible@aol.com; jesselaz@yahoo.com; daveew@gmail.com; Windy Boy, Jonathon; ryan@zinkeforsenate.com; Goodwin, Libby**Cc:** kjacobson@bozeman.net; jkrauss@bozeman.net; jrupp@bozeman.net; sbecker@bozeman.net; ebryson@bozeman.net; rmclane@bozeman.net**Subject:** House Bill 531-Traffic Cameras

I strongly urge all members of the Senate Highway and Transportation Committee to vote against House Bill 531.

HB 531 would prohibit Montana cities from installing traffic cameras at their most dangerous intersections (also known by its misleading short title: the bill that would prohibit the use of technology for issuing citations not witnessed by a police officer).

The use of technology like traffic cameras is clearly a public safety issue. Nothing more. Nothing less. Traffic camera technology is a police force multiplier that needs to be used. Public safety. I cannot say that enough.

In Bozeman, the number of drivers who view the yellow light as the signal to speed up is staggering. The number who flat run red lights is incomprehensible. There is a complete disregard for the safety of others. They do not care if they kill or injure someone. They do not care if they damage someone else's property. These people are scofflaws who flagrantly and knowingly violate our traffic laws, jerks who need there behavior modified.

No one has a constitutional right to kill or injure someone, or damage others property, by speeding up for a yellow light, or running a red light. No one has a constitutional right to require that a cop personally witness you run a light, or kill or injure someone in the process.

The potential and certain victims of lawless drivers who run red and yellow lights, however, do have a right to expect that the authorities will protect them from the lawless. Cameras help the short staffed police departments do that.

This is not "Big Brother" watching. Since when did we have a "right" to expect that a police officer personally witness someone violating the law, like running a red light? Or any law? Never. That is a specious argument.

Bozeman has the best possible procedure for using traffic cameras. A police officer will personally view the camera tape and photos. That police officer will then write the ticket.

Traffic cameras are part of the solution to a major public safety issue. A public safety issue that needs to be brought under control.

Vote against HB 531. This is a public safety issue.

Libby Goodwin: per our conversation this morning. Please pass this to your two members who do not email addresses, Hinkle and Keane. You might want to pass it on to the others, too. Thanks.

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3/13/2009